

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated February 2, 2005. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the patent application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.115.

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 41-44 are pending in the application. The amendments are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Previously Filed Information Disclosure Statement

Per the Examiner's request, Applicants have resubmitted articles C2-C14 that were listed and submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement that was mailed to the USPTO on March 4, 2002. Applicants respectfully requests that Examiner consider articles C2-C14 and initialize the Information Disclosure Statement.

Summary of the Examiner's Rejections

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 (second paragraph) as being incomplete for omitting essential steps where such an omission amounts to a gap between the elements.

Claims 9 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshinaga (JP 63222254 A).

Claims 34-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hay (EP 0327687).

Claims 38-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Audeh (US 4,702,814).

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacDonnel in view of CAPLUS abstract of Herren or CAPLUS abstract of Huang or CAPLUS abstract of Nordt or CAPLUS abstract of Vanderhoff.

Claims 9, 12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshinaga (JP 63222254 A) in view of MacDonell in view of CAPLUS abstract of Herren or CAPLUS abstract of Huang or CAPLUS abstract of Nordt or CAPLUS abstract of Vanderhoff.

Claims 9, 12, 15-18, 21, 24, 25 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Audeh (US 4,702,814) in view of MacDonell in view of CAPLUS abstract of Herren or CAPLUS abstract of Huang or CAPLUS abstract of Nordt or CAPLUS abstract of Vanderhoff.

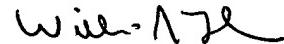
Claims 41-44 were allowed.

Summary of Amendment

Applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 4, 7-9, 12, 15-18, 21, 24-25 and 32-40 (without prejudice). In view of the cancelled Claims 1, 4, 7-9, 12, 15-18, 21, 24-25 and 32-40, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds of rejections have been accommodated and rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all outstanding rejections and allow pending Claims 41-44.

It is believed no fee is due for this paper or for the IDS. If this is incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-1481.

Respectfully submitted,



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